Princess Virginia

things in the garden that were not white were gray as a dove's wing. Even the shadows were not black, and the sky was gray, with the soft gray of velvet under a crust of diamonds which flashed as the spangles on a woman's fan flash when it trembles in her hand.

White moths, happily ignorant that summer would come no more for them, driffed out from the shadows like rose petals blown by the soft wind. On a trellis a crowding sisterhood of pale roses drooped their heads downward In memento mori. It was a silver night, a night of enchantment.

Leopold had meant to take Virginia out only to see the moon rise over the water, turning the great smooth sheet of jet into a silver shield, for there had been clouds or spurts of rain on other nights, and he had said to himself that never again perhaps would they two stand tegether under the white spell of the coop. He bad meant to keep her for five minutes, or ten at the most, and then to bring her back, but they had walked down to the path which girdled the cliff above the lake. The moon touched her goldon hair and her pure face like a bene diction. He dared not look at her thus for long, and when there came a sudden quick rustling in the grass at their feet he bent down, glad of any change in the current of his thoughts.

Some tiny winged thing of the night sought a lodging in a bell shaped flow er whose blue color the moon had drunk, and as Leopold stooped the same impulse made Virginia bend.

He stretched out his hand to gather the low growing branch of blossoms which he would give the girl as a souvenir of this hour, and their fingers met. Lake and garden swam before the eyes of the princess as the em peror's hand closed over hers.

Her great moment had come, ye now that it was here, womanlike, she wished it away, not goue forever-oh. no-but waiting just round the corner of the future.

"The flowers are yours-I give them to you," she laughed, as if she fancled it was in eagerness to grasp the disputed spray that he had pressed her

"You are the one flower I wantflower of all the world," he answered in a choked voice, speaking words he had not meant to speak. But the ice barriers that held back the torrent of which he had told her had melted long ago and now had been swept away. Other barriers which he had built up in their place-his convictions, his duty as a man at the head of a nationwere gone too. "I love you," he stammered. "I love you far better than my life, which you saved. I've loved you ever since our first hour together on the mountain, but every day my love has grown a thousandfold until now, it's greater and higher than any mountain. I can fight against myself no longer. I thought I was strong, but this love is stronger than I am. Say that you care for me-only say

"I do care," Virginia whispered. She hed prayed for this, lived for this, and she was drowning to happiness. Yet she had pictured a different scene, a scene of storm and stress. She had heard in fancy broken words of sorrow and noble renunciation on his lips, and in anticipating his suffering she had felt the Joy her revelation would give. "I care so much, so much! How hard it will be to part!"

"If you care, then, we shall not be parted," said Leopold.

The princess looked up at him to wonder, holding back as he would have caught her in his arms. What could be mean? What plan was in his mind that, believing her to be Helen Mowbray, yet made it possible for him to reassure her so?

"I don't understand," she faltered. "You are the emperor, and I am no more than"-

"You are my wife if you love me." In the shock of her ecstatic surprise she was helpless to resist him longer, and he held her close and passionately, his lips on her hair, her face crushed against his heart. She could hear it beating, feel it throb under her cheek. His wife? Then he loved her enough for that. Yet how was it possible for him to stand ready for her sake to override the laws of his own land?

"My darling-my wife!" he said "I have loved you from the first," the princess confessed, "but I was afraid you would feel, even if you cared, that we must say goodby. And in an instant the whole would have been out, but the "goodby" stabbed him, and he could not let it pass.

"We shall not say goodby, not for an hour," he cried. "After this I could not lose you. There's nothing to prevent my being your husband, you my wife. Would to God you were of royal blood and you should be my emroyal blood and you should be my empress—the fairest empress that poet or historian ever saw—but we're prisoners of fate, you and I. We must take the goods the gods provide. My goddess you will always be, but the empress of Bhaetis even my love isn't powerful enough to make you. If I

zinia's veins grew chill. It was as if wind had blown up from the dark depths of the lake to strike like ice into her soul. An instant more and he would have known that she was a princess of the blood, and through his whole life she could have gone on wor-shiping him because he had been rendy to break down all barriers for her love before he guessed there need be none to break. Now her warm im-pulse of gratitude was frozen by the biting blast of distilusionment, still there was hope left. It might be that she misunderstood him. She would not judge him yet.

"The empire of your heart!" she "If that were mine I should be richer than with all the treasures of the earth. If you were Leo, the chamois hunter, I would love you as I love you now, because in yourself you are the one man for me, and I'd go with you to the end of the world as your wife. But you're not the chamols hunter; you are the man I love, yet you are the emperor. Being the emperor, had you talked of a hopeless love and a promise not to forget, having nothing else to give me because of your high destiny and my humbler one, I could still have been happy. Yet you speak of more than that, You speak of something I can't understand

It reems to me that what a royal man offers the woman he loves should be all or nothing."

"I do offer you all," said Leopold, "all myself, my life, the heart and soul of me-all that's my own to give. The rest-belongs to Rhaetia."

"Then what do you mean by"-"Don't you understand, my sweet that I've asked you to be my wife? What can a man ask more of a wom-

"Your wife, but not the empress How can the two be apart?"

He tried to take her once more in his arms, but when he saw that she would not have it so he held his leve in check and waited. He was sure that he would not need to wait long. for not only had he laid his love at her feet, but had pledged himself to a tremendous sacrifice on love's altar.

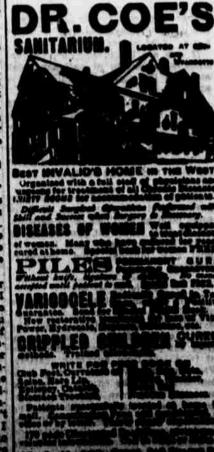
The step which in a moment of passion he had now resolved to take would create dissension among his people, allenate one who had been his secon father, rouse England, America and Germany to anger because of the princess whose name rumor had already coupled with his and raise in every direction a storm of disapproval. When this girl whom he loved realized the immensity of the concession he was making because of his reverent love for her she would give her life to him

ow and forever. Tenderly he took her hand and lifted it to his lips. Then when she did not draw it away, because be was to have his chance of explanation, he held it between both his own as he talked on.

"Dearest one," he said, "when I first knew I loved you-loved you as I didn't dream I could love a womanfor your sake and my own, I would have avoided meeting you too often. This I tell you frankly. I didn't see how in honor such a love could end except in despair for me and sorrow even for you if you should come to care. Had you and Lady Mowbray stayed on at the hotel in Kronburg I think I could have held to my resolve. But when Baroness von Lyndal suggested your coming here my heart leaped up. I said in my mind: 'At least I shall have the joy of seeing her every day for a time without doing anything to darken her future. Afterward, when she has gone out of my life, I shall

have that radiance to remember. And

so no harm will be done in the end.



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oring.' Still I had, no thought of the future without a parting. I felt that inwitable. And the suffering came hand hand with the joy, for not a night pere at Lyndalbarg have I slept. If I and been weak I should have grouned loud in the agony of renunciation.

"My rooms open on a lawn. More han once I've come out into the darkiess when all the household was sleepg. Sometimes I have walked to this



"Never!" she exclaimed.

ery spot where you and I stand now heart to heart for the first time, my darling setting myself whether there were any way out of labyrinth. It was not until ! brought you here and saw you by my side, with the moon rays for a crown, that a flash of blind ing light seemed to pierce the clouds. Suddenly I saw aff things clearly, and. though there will be difficulties, I ount them as overcome."

"Btill you haven't answered my ques tion," said Virginia in a low, strained

"I'm coming to that now. It was best that you should know first all that's been troubling my heart and brain during these few bittersweet days which have taught me so much. You know men who have their place at the head of great nations can't think they leve better than themselves. they hope to snatch at personal happiness they must take the one way open to them and be thankful.

"Don't do me the horrible injustice believe that I wouldn't be proud to show you to my subjects as their empress, but instead I can offer only what men of royal blood for hundreds of years have offered to women whom they honored as well as loved. You must have heard even in England of what is called a morganatic marriage It is that I offer you.

With a cry of pain-the cruel pain of wounded, disappointed love-the princess tore her hand from his. "Never!" she exclaimed. "It's an

"An insult? No, a thousand times no I see that even now you don't under stand.

sult."

"I think that I understand very well too well." said Virginia brokenly. The beautiful fairy palace of happiness that she had watched as it grew lay shattered, destroyed, in the moment which ought to have seen its triumphant com-

"I tell you that you cannot understand or you wouldn't say--you wouldn't dare to say, my love—that I'd insulted you. Don't you see, don't you know, that you would be my wife in the sight of all men as well as in the

sight of God." "Your wife, you call it!" The princess gave a harsh little laugh which burt as tears could not burt. "You seem to have strange ideas of that word, which has always been sacred to me. A morganatic marriage! That is a mere pretense, a hypocrisy. I would be 'your wife,' you say. I would give you all my love, all my life. You in return would give me-your left hand. And you know well that in a country which tolerates such a one sided travesty of marriage the laws would hold you free to marry another man-a royal woman. whom you ould make an empress—as free as if I ad no existence.

"Great heaven, that you should speak did hold me free? Can you dream-do my heart would hold me free? My

"So you may believe now. But the nowledge that you could change ould be death to me—a death to die ily. Yee, I tell you again, it was an ult to offer a lot so miserable, so

xcept that I shall have to pay by suf. shove the whole world of men! But, after all, you are selfish, cruel. If you had said. I love you, yet we must part, for duty stands between us,' I could- But, no: I can never tell you now what I could have answered if you had said that instead of breaking my heart."

Under the fire of her reproach he stood still, his lips tight, his shoulders braced, as if he held his breast open for the knife. By heaven, it is you who are cruel!"

he said at last. "How can I make you see your injustice?" "In no way. There's nothing more

to be said between us two after this except goodby."

"It shall not be goodby." "It must. I wish it."

He had caught her dress as she turned to go, but now he released her. You wish it? It's not true that you ove me, then?"

"It was true. Everything-everything in my whole life-is changed from this bour. It would be better if I'd never seen you. Goodby."

To be continued.

County News

From Our Exchanges

GILLAM. John Hustedde was up from

the bottom Monday and he, was looking on the bright side, of life generally. He said been the guests of Mrs. some of the boys had planted Charles Urban, returned to corn since the flood and it had come up; that be intended to urday evening. -- Carl Herplant this week and thought ing who has been attending he would raise enough to do Washington University at St. him through the winter. He Louis the past winter, arriv said most of the land was left; ed Thursday afternoon to in a better condition than be- spend his vacation with his bought the greecy stock of fore the flood; that next year parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. he expected to see the bottom brock spent Sunday in Kan-stock Mr. Cunningham has raise a bumper crop again. here Tuesday announcing the there is no change for the about eight years and three death in Oklahoma of Mrs. worse he will go to Kansas years ago bought the furni-Shelby Highbarger, and she City and bring her home. — ture and undertaking busi Fremonth, of Marshall, attended the burial .- The lithero medal.—Gilliam Globe.

MALTA BEND

Born-To Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wilson, Monday, July 13th, a fine 10 pound boy. --Mrs. E. G. Guthrey gave a lawn party for her Sunday School class last Friday afternoon. There were 21 present, several being absent. After many games were played and a good social time was spent, refreshments of ice cream and cake was served. -- Will Handley had bad luck Wedneeday morning. Some of the bands carelessly left their blanket lying around the thresher and it got into the cylinder breaking concave and Handley had to go to Kansas City for repairs, losing a days threshing besides the cost of repairs.—W. H. Crum and bis daughter, Mrs. Densy Cliffs, whohave been visiting the same day.—Slater Rust- at Long Banch, M. J. for a ler.

month, returned home last week. Mr. Crum says tney had the time o' their lives on the Atlantic beach, at this famous summer resort. They had oysters, fish, clams and sea crabs in galore. But after all Mr. Crum says give me Missouri for the pure out door life. Back there is style, snobbery, dress, ease and club life. - Malte Bend Qui Vive.

Prof. H. Ninnemann, who

has had charge of the German school in this city for the past year, returned to his bome at Sheboygan, Wis., last week where he wil' spend the sum mer. We understand that be will return in the fall and take charge of the school again. -Co'. D. W. Marmaduke arrived bere Tuesday from Alabama, where he has been since last fall. -- Martin Renken is carrying his left band in sling on account of baving the nails of two fingers mashed off in the machinery at the mill, at which place he is working .-- J. F. Coulter, senior member of the Coulter Hwd. Co. and family are with J. H. Coulter and family of the home o' his son, Dave near Elmwood. Mr. Coulter Rogers .- Mrs. Isom Rois on the farm resting up and berts died at her home in otherwise recuperating his Carrollton yesterday evening They will return to town soon. mother of Mrs. C. V. Davis -Sweet Springs Herald.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tuepker and children returned Thurs. day from Dutzow, Mo., where they had been to a'tend the funeral of his mother. ---Mrs. L. F. Urban and sister, Miss Sylvia Roberts, who have their home at Marshali Sat-Hering, Jr .-- F. W. Mollen. consolidate it with his own —A telegram was received sas City with his wife and if been in the grocery business was buried in Lawrence, Kas., Roy Briscoe, of Marshall, was ining the two businesses toof this place, and Mrs. May stein Tuesday.—Blackburn gether. Mr. Cunningbam Record.

> ARROW ROCK Rock Statesman

SLATER.

will leave the first of next game and in the scramble to week for Barnesville, Ohio, get away, Stephenson met his the old home of Mrs. Hains, misfortune. - Miami News. where she has not visited for many years .- J. J. Smith. of Sharon, came to town a few Bays ago and on his way here one dreaded disease that ecience has saw farmers doing all kinds been able to cure is a'l its stages and of work. Some were ploughing core, some cutting wheat, outs and bay, while others being a constitutional disease requires were threshing wheat. Some of the wheat cut last week is said to have been cut, thresh ed and ground into flour in a day, and it is said that C. E Field, who lives west of Slater was out of humor with his The proprietors have so much faith wife because she failed to have biscuits for supper made that it falls to ours. Send for list of out of the wheat which he had testimonials. Address, F. J. CHEN-

Headache?

If it does, you should try Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills. Why not do so. They will relieve the pain in just a few minutes. Ask your druggist There are 45,000 druggists in the U.S. Ask any of them. A package of 25 doses costs 25 cents. One tablet usually stops a headache. They relieve pain without leaving any disagreeable after-effects -isn't that what you want?

"My son Frank Enyder has used Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills for a long time. He never had anything to help him so much for headache. A year ago he came home, and I was down sick with such a dreadful nervous headache. He gave me one of the Anti-Pain Pills, and after while I took another and was entirely re-lieved. I always keep them in the se now, and gave many away to others suffering with headache."
MRS. LOUISE LEWELLYN.

Powell, South Dakota Your druggist sells Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills, and we authorize him to return the price of first package (only) if it fails to benefit you. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind

Tom Rogers is quite sick at health which is improving, at 5 o'clock p. m. She is the of this place. Mrs. Davis was at her bedside at the end. -G. T. Taylor and daughter Miss Ermin, left Tuesday morning for an entended trip in the west. They go directly to Spokane, Washington, and will then visit other points, spending two months on the trip. Miss Mary Grady accompanied them to Kansas City where she was joined by a young lady friend and went to Cassville to attend a house party of a friend. -- G D. Webster has Roy Briscoe, of Marshall, was ness of R. H. Lemmon, runfurniture business - Elbert Moore, while helping to make tle boy of John Cross came! Miss Martha McClelland hay at the home of George near being killed Monday has sold her dwelling house Lyon, northeast of town, Wedevening. He had a rope on a on Main street to Gibson nesday of lest week, slipped calf and the other end tied to Scott. We did not learn the and fell off a haystack and his ankle, and some dogs scar- price paid. Mr. and Mrs. broke one of the bones of the ed it, when the way it went Hubbard who are occupying a lower leg .-- Walter Stephenwith the boy turning somer portion of the house will give son, colored, broke his leg saults. Ray Kirk happened possession some time next just above the knee in jumpalong just in time to save the month. Mrs. McCielland we ing over a fence at the school boys' life. It may be Ray will understand, will remain there yard late Saturday afternoon. be rewarded with a Carnegie and board with them .- Arrow It appears that Constable Reyno'ds, who was looking for another man, surprised W. W. Hains and mother some parties engaged in a

\$100 Reward \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Caterrh a constitutional remedy. Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and musous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the discase and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case

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